

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1, 6-7, 12 and 14 have been amended and claims 16 and 17 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preparing a purple corn color free of fumonisins, which comprises the steps of passing a purple corn color extract solution through an adsorption resin, washing the resin with water, and desorbing a purple corn color from the resin using 25 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution as a desorption solution.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the purple corn color extract solution is an acid water or an aqueous acid solution containing no more than 20% v/v alcohol.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein after washing the resin with water, 1.5 to 2.5 times as much desorption solution as the resin by volume is passed through the resin at a SV (space velocity) of 0.8 to 1.5.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the adsorption resin is a cross-linked styrene porous polymer.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises as a process for eliminating fumonisins the steps of passing a purple corn color extract solution through an adsorption resin, washing the resin with water, and desorbing a purple corn color from the resin using 25 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for preparing a purple corn color free of fumonisins, which comprises the step of subjecting an adsorption-treated solution obtained by the method of claim 1 to at least one treatment selected from adsorption treatment, ion exchange treatment, acid treatment, extraction treatment and membrane separation treatment.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the membrane separation treatment is carried out after ~~a method of claim 1~~ the steps of passing a purple corn color extract solution through an adsorption resin, washing the resin with water, and desorbing a purple corn color from the resin using 25 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution as a desorption solution.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 6, wherein the membrane separation treatment is at least one of reverse osmosis membrane treatment or ultrafiltration membrane treatment.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the acid treatment is carried out before the membrane separation treatment.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 9, wherein the acid treatment is carried out under high-temperature condition.

Claim 11 (original): A purple corn color obtained by the method of claim 1, which is characterized in being free of fumonisins.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The purple corn color free of fumonisins obtained by the method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the odor components is not higher than 150 ppm when the purple corn color is adjusted to a color value of

$$E_{1cm}^{10\%} = 60$$

Claim 13 (original): The purple corn color according to claim 12, wherein the odor component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, malonic acid diethyl ester, 4-vinyl-2-methoxyphenol and 4-vinylphenol.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The purple corn color free of fumonisins obtained by the method of claim 1, wherein the total concentration of acetic acid, malonic acid diethyl ester, 4-vinyl-2-methoxyphenol and 4-vinylphenol is not higher than 20 ppm when the purple corn color is adjusted to a color value of

$$E_{1\text{cm}}^{10\%} = 60$$

Claim 15 (original): A purple corn color composition comprising a purple corn color of claims 1.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the desorption solution is 28 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution instead of 25 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution.

Claim 17 (new): A method for eliminating fumonisins that can be present in a purple corn color, the fumonisins being produced by molds occurring on a purple corn, which comprises the steps of passing a purple corn color extract solution through an adsorption resin, washing the resin with water, and desorbing a purple corn color from the resin using 25 to 45% v/v hydroalcoholic solution as a desorption solution.